

REMARKS

In this *Preliminary Amendment*, claims 1-13 and 15-19 of U.S. Patent 6,356,081 (hereafter the `081 patent) have been amended. Claim 14 has not been changed, and claims 20-24 have been added. As required by 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c), the changes made herein to the claims have support in the disclosure of the `081 patent, and the portions of the disclosure that provide such support are cited below. Consequently, no new matter has been added to the application by this *Preliminary Amendment*. Applicant respectfully requests entry of this *Preliminary Amendment* before examination of this broadening reissue application.

Furthermore, as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.173 and 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant provides additional prior art for the Examiner to consider as such prior art may be material to patentability of the claims under consideration in this reissue application. (See M.P.E.P. §1418) Applicant therefore files herewith an *Information Disclosure Statement* in which, U.S. Patent 6,323,648 to Belt et al. is cited, among others.

Status of and Support for Claims As Required By 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c)

Original claims 1-19 are pending in the application, with claims 1-13 and 15-19 having been amended herein. New claims 20-24 have been added. Claim 14 has not been changed.

Amended claims 1-19 are supported by at least Col. 2, lines 14-

26 and lines 50-67; Col. 3, lines 1-20 and lines 31-59; Col. 4, lines 14-67; and Col. 5, lines 1-31, of the specification, and Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 4 and 5.

Claims 2-13 and 15-19 have also been variously amended to correct minor errors therein related to lack of clarity/antecedent basis with reference to the earlier claims on which they depend.

New claim 20 is supported by the original claims and also supported by at least Col. 2, lines 50-67; Col. 3, lines 1-20 and lines 31-59; Col. 4, lines 48-67; and Col. 5, lines 1-31, of the specification, and Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 4 and 5.

New claim 21-24 are supported by the original claims and also supported by at least Col. 2, lines 14-26 and lines 50-67; Col. 3, lines 1-20, lines 31-59; Col. 4, lines 14-67; and Col. 5, lines 1-31, of the specification, and Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 4 and 5.

CONCLUSION

This *Preliminary Amendment* amends claims 1-13 and 15-19 of the '081 patent, and adds claims 20-24. No new matter has been added to this broadening reissue application by this *Preliminary Amendment*. When granted, U.S. Patent 6,356,081 had nineteen (19) claims, two (2) of which were independent and seventeen (17) dependent. Upon entry of this *Preliminary Amendment*, the application will contain twenty-four (24) claims: six (6) independent and eighteen (18) dependent.

Preliminary Amendment

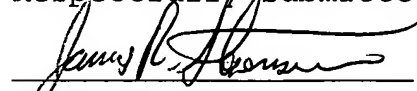
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If the Examiner has any questions regarding this *Preliminary Amendment*, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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